

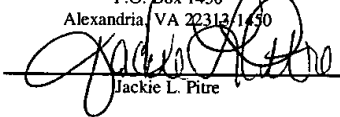


1714  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/848,965 §  
Confirmation No.: 8816 §  
Filing Date: May 4, 2001 §  
Inventor: §  
Powell, Clois E. §  
Title: PROCESS FOR TREATING §  
SMECTITE CLAYS TO §  
FACILITATE EXFOLIATION §  
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§

Examiner: Sanders, K. A.  
Art Unit: 1714  
Atty. Dkt. No: 5628-02102

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8</p> <p>DATE OF DEPOSIT: 8-18-03</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date indicated above and is addressed to:</p> <p>Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p> Jackie L. Pire</p>
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JUNE 17, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2003 of the above-captioned application.

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TC 1700



09/848,965  
Powell, Clois E.

**Response to Office Action Mailed June 17, 2003**

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**A. Claims In the Case.**

Claims 10-97 are pending. Claims 10-97 are allowed.

**B. Information Disclosure Statement**

The Examiner states:

The IDS submitted by applicant on 1-16-03 is incomplete. Applicant has cited 286 references that he desires to have considered. Although applicant states that the references have been submitted with the IDS, they have not been received by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant has attached Forms PTO-1449 (references A1-A218, A220-A243, A246-A251, Exhibit 1) sent along with the Information Disclosure Statement mailed to the PTO on September 19, 2002. The Information Disclosure Statement was received by the PTO on September 23, 2002, as indicated on the return postcard (See Exhibit 2). Applicant has also attached the Forms PTO-1449 (references B1-B4, Exhibit 3) from another Information Disclosure Statement that was mailed to the PTO on January 13, 2003. The Information Disclosure Statement was received by the PTO on January 21, 2003, as indicated on the return postcard (See Exhibit 4). A copy of an electronic Information Disclosure Statement (references P01-P09, Exhibit 5) was filed on January 13, 2003. The electronic information disclosure statement was received by the PTO on January 13, 2003 as indicated on the acknowledgement receipt EFS ID 21765 received from the PTO (See Exhibit 6).

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As requested in a phone interview with the Examiner on July 7, 2003, Applicant has resubmitted copies of foreign patent documents and other art as a convenience to the Examiner.

Should any fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5628-02102/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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Patent Agent for Applicant

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Date: 8/18/03